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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *December* the 27th, 1753.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

I HAVE been betrayed and ruined by the baſeſt of mankind. My father was a merchant of conſiderable note in this town; but by unavoidable loſſes and misfortunes, he died two years ago, broken-hearted and inſolvent. I was his only child, and the delight of his life. My education, my dreſs and manner of living were ſuch as would hardly have diſcredited a young woman of faſhion. Alas! the dear parent, to whoſe fondneſs I was indebted for every advantage and enjoyment, intended to have given me a conſiderable fortune; but he died as I have told you; and has left me to lament that I was not a beggar from my cradle.

I WAS ignorant of his circumſtances, and therefore felt not my misfortune in it's full force till a month after his death: at which time his creditors entered upon his houſe, ſold all his furniture and effects, and left me nothing but my clothes and trinkets, which they had no right to take from me.

IN the days of my proſperity I had a maid ſervant, of whom I was extremely fond; and to whom, upon her marriage with a reputable tradeſman, I gave a little portion of fifty pounds, which were left me by a relation. This young woman was lately become a widow; and being left in but indifferent circumſtances, ſhe hired a large houſe near the Exchange, and let lodgings for her ſupport. It was to this woman that I flew for ſhelter; being no more than eighteen years of age, and, as my father uſed often to tell me, too handſome to have friends.

I DO not mention this circumſtance, indeed I do not, as any thing to be vain of: Heaven knows that I am humbled by it to the very duſt: I only introduced it as the beſt excuſe I could think of for the unkindneſs of my acquaintance.

I WAS received by this favourite ſervant with great appearance of gratitude and eſteem. She ſeemed to pity my misfortunes, and to take every opportunity of comforting and obliging me.

AMONG the gentlemen who lodged at her houſe, there was one whom ſhe uſed frequently to talk of with particular pleaſure. One day, after I had lived with her about a week, ſhe told me that this gentleman had a great inclination to be known to me, and that if I had no objection to company, he would drink tea with us that afternoon. She had hardly done ſpeaking, when the gentleman entered the room. I was angry in my heart at this freedom; but his genteel appearance and behaviour ſoon got the better of my reſentment, and made me liſten to his converſation with more than common attention. To be as ſhort as I can, this firſt viſit made me deſirous of a ſecond, that ſecond of a third, and the third of a thouſand more; all of which he ſeemed as eager to pay as I was willing to receive.

THE houſe was ſo crouded with lodgers, that the miſtreſs of it had only one parlour for herſelf and me; and as ſhe had almoſt conſtant employment at home, my lo-

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ver had very few opportunities of entertaining me alone. But the preſence of a third perſon did not hinder him from declaring the moſt tender and unalterable love for me, nor did it awe Me from diſcovering how pleaſed and happy I was at the conqueſt I had made.

In this delightful ſituation near a twelvemonth paſſed away; during which time he would often lament his dependance upon an old uncle, who, he ſaid, would moſt aſſuredly diſinherit him, if he married a woman without a fortune.

I wanted no better reaſon for this delay; and was waiting for an event which promiſed me the poſſeſſion of all I wiſhed for, when my happineſs was interrupted by the moſt villanous contrivance that ever was heard of.

I had walked out one morning to buy ſome ſhades of ſilk, in order to finiſh the covering of a ſettee which I was working for my benefactreſs; and was returning home through a by-court, when to my inexpreſſible ſurpriſe, I found myſelf ſtopt by two men, who producing what they called a writ againſt me, hurried me into a coach, and conveyed me, half dead with terror, to a wretched houſe, whoſe windows were guarded with iron bars.

As ſoon as I had power to ſpeak, I deſired to know by whom and for what crime I was thus cruelly inſulted. They ſhewed me without hefitation their authority; by which it appeared that the woman with whom I lived had ordered me to be arreſted for a debt of thirty pounds, which ſhe had ſworn I owed her for board and lodgings. "It is impoſſible! cried I; ſhe cannot have ſerved me "ſo! There muſt be ſome miſtake in this! Send for her "this moment! I am ſure it is a miſtake!" "Very "poſſible, madam," anſwered one of the fellows with a ſmile; "but if you would take my advice, it ſhould be "to ſend for a gentleman inſtead of the plaintiff. A "young lady like you, madam, need not ſtay here for "a debt of thirty pounds." "Go where I ſend you, "ſir, ſaid I; tell her what has happened, and bid her "haſten to me, if ſhe would ſave my life." The fellow ſhook his head as he went out, but promiſed to do as I directed. His companion aſked me what I pleaſed to call for, and explained his meaning by telling me I was in a public houſe. I bid him call for what he liked, and charge it to me; he thanked me very civilly, and locking the door after him, left me to myſelf.

I HAD now a little leiſure to reflect upon this adventure; but the more I thought of it, the greater was my perplexity. I remained in this uncomfortable ſuſpence for near an hour, when I heard my door open with precipitation, and ſaw my lover enter the room with an aſtoniſhment not to be imagined. "Good God!" ſaid he, ſnatching me to his arms, "is this an apartment "for my charmer!—That inhuman woman!"—"What "woman?" ſaid I, interrupting him; "can it be poſſible?" —"She owns it herſelf," anſwered he; "this profeſſing "friend, this grateful ſervant, owns that ſhe has arreſted "you." I was ready to faint at what I heard; but recovering myſelf as well as I could, I enquired into the motive of this woman's cruelty. "Her motive, he re"plied, was avarice; I had ſome words with her two "days ago, and threatened her in jeſt that I would leave "her lodgings. She thought me in earneſt; and believing I was ſoon to marry the angel whom I doated on, "ſhe determined to make what money ſhe could of Me, "by arreſting my ſweet girl. She was not miſtaken "when ſhe gueſſed with what haſte I ſhould diſcharge "the debt. Here, ſir," continued he, turning to the bailiff, "is the full ſum, and a gratuity for yourſelf. "Come, madam, let us change this deteſted place, for "apartments more worthy of you."

THE coach that brought him to my priſon was at the door. He immediately put me into it, and conducted me to a lace-ſhop upon Ludgate Hill. I remained in the coach while he ſtept into the ſhop, and continued for a minute or two in converſation with the miſtreſs of it; when returning to me with great chearfulneſs, he gave me joy of his ſucceſs, and handed me up ſtairs into pleaſant and convenient apartments. The exact order in which I found every thing in theſe apartments put me upon obſerving that the owner of them was a propheteſs, and knew that I ſhould have need of them that very morning. My lover made no anſwer to my remark, but ſtraining me to his arms, and almoſt preſſing me to death, he called them my bridal apartments, and bid me welcome to them as ſuch. He then went down to order dinner and a bottle of champaign from the tavern, and returned to me with ſo much love and joy in his looks, that I was charmed with him beyond expreſſion. When dinner was removed, and the ſervant who attended us withdrawn, he ſaid and looked ſo many fond and endearing things, and mingled ſuch careſſes with his words and looks; forcing upon me at the ſame time three or four

four glaſſes of a wine I was not uſed to, that my heart, warm as it was before with love and gratitude, conſented to his deſires, and in one fatal moment betrayed me to a villain.

I LIVED in this guilty commerce till the effects of it made me apprehenſive of becoming a mother in a few weeks. I had often preſſed for the performance of his promiſes; and was now reſolved to be more particularly urgent with him upon that ſubject; but inſtead of liſtening to me as I hoped he would, he called haſtily for his ſword, and took leave of me till the evening.

I EXPECTED his return with the utmoſt impatience. The evening came; another, and another after that; but I neither ſaw him nor heard from him. Upon the fourth day of his leaving me, I received a viſit from the miſtreſs of the houſe, who, to my great aſtoniſhment, addreſſed me in theſe words.

"I THOUGHT, madam, at your entrance into this "houſe, that you were a married woman. The lady "who hired the lodgings for you two days before, gave "me aſſurance that you were married."—"What lady? "cried I. You amaze me! I heard not of theſe lod- "gings till I had taken poſſeſſion of them. Be quick "and tell me who was this lady?" "Alas! anſwered "my viſitor, I knew not till this morning that you were "fallen into the ſnares of the worſt of women, and the "moſt artful of men." She ſaw my amazement; but deſiring my attention, proceeded thus. "As for "the gentleman (if he deſerves the name of one) you "will never ſee him more"—"How, madam! never "ſee him more! interrupted I"—My voice failed me as I uttered theſe words; and leaning backwards in my chair, I fainted away. She recovered me from my ſwoon, and then went on. "He has juſt now ſent his "ſervant to diſcharge the lodgings; of whom when I "enquired how you were to be taken care of in your "approaching hour, his anſwer was, that he had no "commiſſion to ſpeak to ſuch queſtions. Pray, ma- "dam, continued ſhe, is it true that you were arreſted "in the ſtreet the morning of your entrance into theſe "lodgings?" I told her yes. "The ſervant then "is honeſt, ſhe replied. He has given me your whole "hiſtory. The contrivers of that arreſt were the wo- "man where you lodged, and the villain whom you "truſted;

" truſted. Their deſign was to fling you entirely into his " power, that he might uſe it to your deſtruction. But " do not deſpair, madam," added ſhe, ſeeing me in the utmoſt affliction; " all women are not monſters. I " have compaſſion upon your youth, and will aſſiſt you " in your diſtreſſes. Theſe apartments are yours, till you " deſire to reſign them: nor ſhall any thing be wanting " that your ſituation ſhall require, or that a lady in hap- " pier circumſtances would wiſh to be provided with. " And hereafter, if you ſhall chuſe to continue with me " and aſſiſt me in my buſineſs, I will look upon you as " my daughter, and forget every thing that has befallen " you."

OPPRESSED as I was with grief and ſhame, my heart bounded at this propoſal. I fell upon the neck of my benefactreſs, and bedewed it with my tears; telling her, as well as thoſe tears would permit me, that I was bound to her forever, and would wiſh for no other happineſs than to ſerve and pleaſe her.

THREE months are paſt ſince I have been the mother of a ſweet boy; in all which time I have never ſeen (and I pray heartily that I may never ſee) his inhuman father. The generous woman, who ſupports me, is even kinder to me than her promiſe. She pays herſelf, ſhe ſays, in the comfortable thought, that ſhe has been an inſtrument in the hand of Heaven to ſave me from deſtruction. She told me yeſterday, that the ſtratagem by which this monſter got me into his power, with every particular of his behaviour to me before and after it, is his favourite ſubject in all companies. To deprive him therefore of his principal pleaſure, I have thought proper to take the ſtory out of his hands, by telling it myſelf.

I am,

SIR,

Your moſt humble ſervant,

AMANDA.

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